What is Shared Faculty Governance?

Shared faculty governance may be simply defined as putting primary responsibility for certain aspects of the governance and administration of the UW System in the hands of its faculty. In the UW System, the governance is shared by:

--Board of Regents
--Central Administration
--Administration of a specific institution
--Faculty of a specific institution

When the University of Wisconsin was created by the Legislature (Chapter 36, Wis. Stats.), it provided that "immediate government of the several departments shall be entrusted to their respective faculties."

In 1974, the Legislature provided for shared faculty governance for all institutions that are part of the UW System:

"The faculty of each institution, subject to the responsibilities and powers of the board, the president and the chancellor of such institution, shall be vested with responsibility for the immediate governance of such institution and shall actively participate in institutional policy development. As such, the faculty shall have the primary responsibility for academic and educational activities and faculty personnel matters. The faculty of each institution shall have the right to determine their own faculty organizational structure and to select representatives to participate in institutional governance."

Shared governance means, in the following areas, that faculty has primary responsibility for:

*(1) Determining who will be the faculty.
*(2) Initiating recommendations and reviewing who will be promoted through peer evaluation.
*(3) Recommending and reviewing policies and procedures relative to salary adjustment and faculty compensation.
*(4) Recommending faculty for selection as department chair and for membership on search and screen committees.
(5) Determining their own academic and educational activities.
(6) Determining the content of what to teach and methods to be used.
(7) Determining their own structure.
(8) Determining the leadership of the faculty -- University Committee and Senator for appropriate Voting Administrative Unit or Region.
(9) Representing the faculty's interest through service on elected and appointed faculty committees.

*Administrative powers includes (1) Concurrence on appointments, promotions, etc., and (2) control of the budget.

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